Appl. No. 09/778,652 Atty. Docket No. 9116-392 (P&G Case 8435L) Amdt. Dated 11/\_/O\_/2004 Reply to Office Action of 07/20/2004 Customer No. 27752

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

## "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Noninvasive methods and apparatus for monitoring at least one hair characteristic on a human or animal comprise magnifying a predetermined skin area having reference indicia to provide a first magnified image., digitally capturing the first magnified image to form a reference image, a After a predetermined time period, magnifying the predetermined skin area is magnified again to provide a second magnified image., and superimposing the second magnified image on the reference image to align the reference indicia in the second magnified image with the reference indicia in the reference image. Apparatus for noninvasive monitoring of at least one hair characteristic on a human or animal comprise a fiber optic remote head microscope, means for digitally capturing a first magnified image provided by the microscope to form a reference image, and means for superimposing a second magnified image provided by the microscope on the reference image and aligning reference indicia in the second magnified image with reference indicia in the reference image. The reference indicium allows for successive monitoring of the same area."

Please see a replacement abstract on the attached separate sheet.